



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 16

Meeting Date: August 31, 2006
Meeting Location: Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana

Council Members Present: Regional Manager Virginia Combs
Larry Marchino
Susan Blackburn
Steve Cunningham
David Straw
Lark Buckman
Judge Brett Niemeier
Juanita Working
Chris Hoehn
Judith Harper
Jara Dillingham (Villages)

Council Members Absent: Judge Timothy Crowley
Judge David Kelly
Julie Weeks

Others In Attendance: Dr. John Ireland (Ireland & Luzio)
Mike Jones (DOULOS)
Bill Curtis (Hillcrest-Washington Home)
Keith Lindsey (Knox County)
Cynthia Smith (Youth Service Bureau)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: Approximately 5:00 p.m. (6:00 p.m. Indianapolis time) by Regional Manager Virginia Combs.

1. Mrs. Combs asked everyone to introduce themselves. The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes of the June 29th meeting had been mailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. On a motion by Juanita Working, seconded by Susan Blackburn, minutes of the June 29, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Mrs. Combs updated the group about the Community Forum held on August 25th at St. Mary's Medical Center. Approximately 135 people participated in the forum lead by Dr. Roberta Hibbard who is a professor of pediatrics and Director of Child Protection Programs at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis. A preliminary review of the forum evaluation sheets showed that most participants felt it was a very positive experience. Gini thanked Council members who were able to attend the forum.

Handouts of Dr. Hibbard's PowerPoint presentation were distributed to Council members. The material is not copy write protected, but if you use it, Dr. Hibbard just asked that you give her credit. The presentation was video recorded and Gini has a copy available for your use.

A new form "Count On Me In Our Community" was handed out at the forum. This is a great tool to use to ask for help with the Community Partners concept. Gini distributed copies of the form to the Council members. It can be duplicated and used to solicit assistance from Community Partners. Please forward any returned information to Gini.

3. Dr. John Ireland distributed handouts of the Region 16 Community Partners for Child Safety case summaries for July and August, 2006. In about 60% of the cases, homemakers are being used. Ireland kept track of some referrals that they did not service because either they have an existing case with the Department of Child Services or the problem is not about preventing child abuse or neglect. Lark Buckman asked if they could indicate on future reports if the case was closed successfully or not.

Mr. Buckman asked what the maximum time frame is for a family to participate in the program. Dr. Ireland responded three to four months, but their involvement in the program is renewable. If their initial goals are reached, then the family could be referred for further goals to achieve stabilization for the family.

Gini Combs stated that we need to develop a regional advisory group consisting of a cross section of people from the community for the Community Partners program. In perhaps six months, we could obtain an initial satisfaction survey. It was mentioned that agencies that we are referring to should be a part of the advisory board; for example, Southwestern Mental Health, LEA, and schools. Gini asked that RSC members email her with feedback before our next meeting on any additional ideas for such a board and talk to people about serving on this committee. Gini mentioned that the goal is for Community Partners programs to be up and running by January 1st in all regions of the state.

4. Gini Combs gave an update on voluntary services cases. The state of Indiana wants to ensure that the Community Partners Program is operational statewide by this January. A phase out plan on voluntary service cases starts September 1st with a statewide 10% decrease per month in each county and region of voluntary services cases. The last date to open a voluntary service case is April 2007. By July of 2007 there will be no voluntary services cases in the state.
5. Gini brought up the topic of Child Welfare Services 2007 funding requests for programs that we fund in our region such as ARK Crisis Nursery, Albion Fellows Bacon Shelter, some school programs, and nurturing classes. At the next meeting, we will discuss service gaps and what types of services we think our region should fund for 2007 to fill those gaps.

We will need to send out requests for services and grantees must fill out a proposal. The proposals will be presented to the Regional Service Council for voting on which grants to fund. We will want all proposals to be in for our voting so that we will know how much money is being asked for, etc.

6. Mrs. Combs asked for a volunteer to start the review of the 2007 county budgets and the handouts were distributed. Larry Marchino, Director of Knox County, offered to start the process followed by each of the other Region 16 Directors. Gini stated that the budget process is very detailed and this was a very brief summary presented tonight. She noted that the Juvenile Judges also had previously reviewed these budgets. Our region is fortunate to have experienced Directors who are very good at establishing and maintaining their budgets. Gini thanked the Directors for all their work on the 2007 budgets.
7. Gini congratulated Lark Buckman, Larry Marchino, and Steve Cunningham who were recognized for 35 years service with our agency in the ceremony with Governor Daniels last week to honor long-term employees.

Chris Hoehn asked if there were any training issues that needed attention. She stated that children have more complex issues than in the past. Chris has coordinated modules of training for foster parents for 13 counties. Call her if you need to discuss foster parent training for your county.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: October 26, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana. Mrs. Combs noted that we will discuss Child Welfare Services 2007 funding requests at our next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at: Approximately 6:35 p.m. (7:35 p.m. Indianapolis time) upon a motion by Chris Hoehn, and seconded by Steve Cunningham.